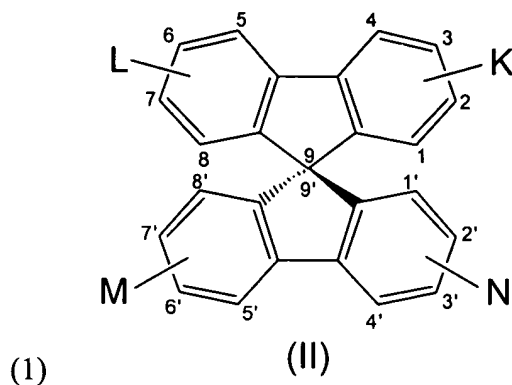


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) Spirobifluorene ("**SBF**") derivatives and corresponding radical anions having the following general formula (II):

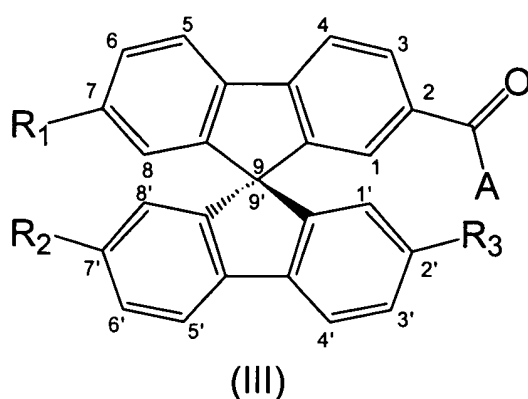


in which K, L, M and N, the same or different from each other, are independently: H or A-C=O, with the proviso that it is never K = L = M = N = H, wherein A is an aromatic group bearing at least one radical R, with R = H or aliphatic group.

2. (Original) Spirobifluorene derivatives and corresponding radical anions according to claim 1 wherein A is selected among: aromatic groups, aromatic groups containing heteroatoms, condensed aromatic groups, condensed aromatic groups containing heteroatoms, and corresponding derivatives.
3. (Original) Spirobifluorene derivatives and corresponding radical anions according to claim 1 wherein A is selected in the group of the following derivatives: phenyl, biphenyl, 1-naphthyl, 2-naphthyl, 2-thienyl, 2-furyl, 2-pyrrolyl, 3-thienyl, 3-furyl, 3-pyrrolyl, 9-anthryl, biphenylenyl, perylenyl, fullereryl, and corresponding derivatives.
4. (Currently amended) Spirobifluorene derivatives and corresponding radical anions according to claim 1 wherein R = linear, branched or cyclic aliphatic C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>n</sub>, with n positive integer ≥0 ~~integer ≥0~~, preferably C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>, ~~more preferably C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>~~.

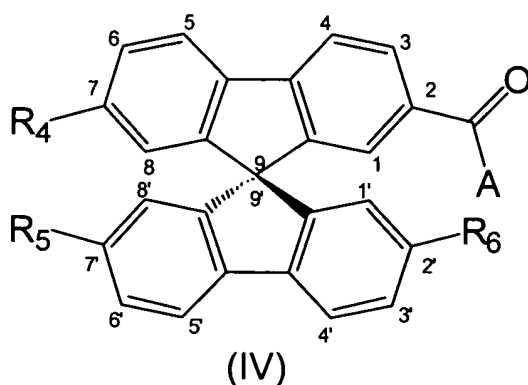
5. (Currently amended) Spirobifluorene derivatives and corresponding radical anions according to claim 1 wherein A is substituted with at least one R' group where R' is selected in the group of: halogens, trifluoromethyl, hydroxyl, -SH, -SC[C<sub>1-6</sub>(alkyl)], alkoxy, nitro, cyano, -COOH, -COOC[C<sub>1-4</sub>(alkyl)], -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NC[C<sub>1-4</sub>(alkyl)]<sub>2</sub>, benzyl, or benzoyl.

6. (Original) Spirobifluorene derivatives having the general formula (III) and corresponding radical anions:



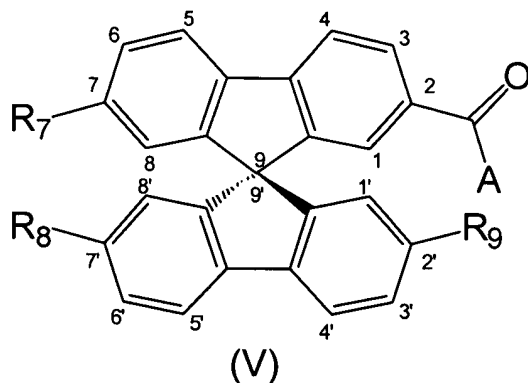
wherein A is an aromatic group and R<sub>1</sub> = R<sub>2</sub> = R<sub>3</sub> = H; or R<sub>1</sub> = R<sub>3</sub> = H and R<sub>2</sub> = C<sub>1-6</sub>(alkyl); or R<sub>1</sub> = R<sub>2</sub> = H and R<sub>3</sub> = C<sub>1-6</sub>(alkyl); or R<sub>2</sub> = H and R<sub>1</sub> = R<sub>3</sub> = C<sub>1-6</sub>(alkyl).

7. (Original) Spirobifluorene derivatives having the general formula (IV) and corresponding radical anions:



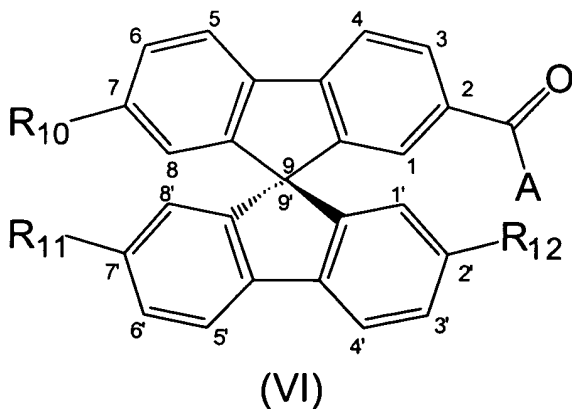
wherein  $R_5 = A-C=O$  with  $A =$  aromatic group and  $R_4 = R_6 = H$ ; or  $R_5 = A-C=O$  and  $R_4 = R_6 = C_{1-4}(\text{alkyl})$ ; or  $R_6 = A-C=O$  and  $R_4 = R_5 = H$ ; or  $R_6 = A-C=O$  and  $R_4 = R_5 = C_{1-4}(\text{alkyl})$ .

8. (Original) Spirobifluorene derivatives having the general formula (V) and corresponding radical anions:



wherein  $R_7 = R_9 = A-C=O$  with  $A =$  aromatic group and  $R_8 = H$ ; or  $R_7 = R_9 = A-C=O$  and  $R_8 = C_{1-4}(\text{alkyl})$ .

9. (Original) Spirobifluorene derivatives having the general formula (VI) and corresponding radical anions;



wherein  $R_{10} = R_{11} = R_{12} = A-C=O$  with  $A =$  aromatic group.

10. (Currently amended) Spirobifluorene derivatives and corresponding radical anions according to ~~claims 6-9~~ claim 6 wherein A is selected among: aromatic groups, aromatic groups containing heteroatoms, condensed aromatic groups, condensed aromatic groups containing heteroatoms, and corresponding derivatives.
11. (Currently amended) Spirobifluorene derivatives and corresponding radical anions according to ~~claims 6-9~~ claim 6 wherein A is selected in the group of: phenyl, biphenyl, 1-naphthyl, 2-naphthyl, 2-thienyl, 2-furyl, 2-pyrrolyl, 3-thienyl, 3-furyl, 3-pyrrolyl, 9-anthryl, biphenylenyl, perylenyl, fullerenyl, and corresponding derivatives.
12. (Original) Spirobifluorene derivatives and corresponding radical anions according to claim 1 wherein  $L = M = N = H$  and  $K = A-C=O$  in position 2, with  $A = \text{phenyl}$  and  $R = H$ .
13. (Original) Spirobifluorene derivatives and corresponding radical anions according to claim 1 wherein  $L = N = H$ ,  $K$  and  $M$  in position 2 and 2' are  $A-C=O$ , with  $A = \text{phenyl}$  and  $R = H$ .
14. (Original) Spirobifluorene derivatives and corresponding radical anions according to claim 1 wherein  $L = N = H$ ,  $K$  and  $M$  in position 2 and 7' are  $A-C=O$ , with  $A = \text{phenyl}$  and  $R = H$ .
15. (Original) Spirobifluorene derivatives and corresponding radical anions according to claim 1 wherein  $L = M = N = H$ ,  $K$  in position 2 is  $A-C=O$  with  $A = \text{phenyl}$  and  $R = \text{p-tert-Bu}$ .
16. (Original) Spirobifluorene derivatives and corresponding anionic radicals according to claim 1 wherein is:  $L = N = H$ ,  $K$  and  $M$  in position 2 and 2' are  $A-C=O$ , with  $A = \text{phenyl}$  and  $R = \text{p-tert-Bu}$ .
17. (Original) Spirobifluorene derivatives and corresponding radical anions according to claim 1 wherein is:  $L = M = H$ ,  $K$  and  $N$  in position 2 and 7' are  $A-C=O$ , with  $A = \text{phenyl}$  and  $R = \text{p-tert-Bu}$ .

18. (Currently amended) Spirobifluorene derivatives and corresponding radical anions according to ~~claims 1-17~~ claim 1 in a mixture of them as enantiomers.

19. (Currently amended) Spirobifluorene derivatives and corresponding radical anions according to ~~claims 1-17~~ claim 1 in optically pure form.

20. (Currently amended) Method for preparing the Spirobifluorene derivatives according to claim 1 comprising the following steps: use the non-functionalised SBF as the starting product (formula (I)) and add to it the compound  $A-C=OCl$  with  $A$  = aromatic group, in the presence of a Lewis acid, ~~preferably selected among  $AlCl_3$ ,  $AlBr_3$ ,  $FeCl_3$ , particularly preferably  $AlCl_3$~~ , in a solvent ~~preferably selected between  $CH_2Cl_2$  and  $CS_2$ , particularly preferably  $CH_2Cl_2$~~ , at a reaction temperature from 10 °C to reflux.

21. (Original) Method for preparing the Spirobifluorene derivatives according to claim 1 comprising the use, as intermediate, of SBF functionalised as acid chloride  $SBF(COCl)_x$ , with  $x$  positive integer  $\geq 1$  and equal to the number of substituents to be obtained on the SBF; said acid chloride is then combined with  $A-H$ , in which  $A$  = aromatic group, said acid chloride intermediate being prepared from the corresponding carboxylic acids of the SBF,  $SBF(COOH)_x$ , in turn obtained from the corresponding acetyl derivatives  $SBF(COCH_3)_x$ ,  $x$  having in both cases the above-mentioned meaning.

22- 24 cancelled

25. (Currently amended) Electrochemical method for preparing the radical anions corresponding to the derivatives of the SBF according to ~~claims 1-24~~ claim 1, said method being characterised in that said derivatives, to be transformed into radical anions, at a concentration between 0.1 M and 0.1 mM, ~~preferably between 0.01 M and 0.5 mM, particularly preferably approximately 1 mM~~, are added to an anhydrous aprotic solvent containing a supporting electrolyte, also anhydrous, in order to obtain a concentration of the latter of between 1 M and 0.01 M, ~~preferably 0.2 M and 0.05 M, particularly preferably approximately 0.1 M~~, the mixture then being placed in an electrolysis cell and a d.d.p. applied between the electrodes in order to

obtain the required radical anion.

26. (Currently amended) Electronic devices, ~~in particular systems for electroluminescence, molecular-based computational systems, OLEDs, molecular switching components, components for non-linear optics, molecular-based computational systems, field-effect transistors, semiconductors with negative differential resistance, said systems~~ comprising elements provided on their surface with at least one layer of a film or coating comprising at least one of the compounds according to ~~claims 1-24~~ claim 1.

27. cancelled.

28. (New) Systems for electroluminescence, molecular-based computational systems, OLEDs, molecular switching components, components for non-linear optics, molecular-based computational systems, field-effect transistors, semiconductors with negative differential resistance, said systems comprising elements provided on their surface with at least one layer of a film or coating comprising at least one of the compounds according to claim 1.

29. (New) 9,9'-Spirobi[9H-fluorene]-2,-carbonyl chloride, 9,9'-Spirobi[9H-fluorene]-2,2',7-tricarbonyl trichloride or 9,9'-Spirobi[9H-fluorene]-2,2',7-7'-tetracarbonyl tetrachloride.